

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD
16th December, 2016

Present:- Councillor Steele (in the Chair); Councillors Albiston, Allcock, Cowles, Mallinder, Short and Walsh.

Councillors Lelliott, Roche and Yasseen were in attendance for Minute No. 54 (Budget 2017/18 and MTFs Progress).

Apologies for absence:- Apologies were received from Councillors Clark, Sansome, Julie Turner and Wyatt.

50. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved:- That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12(A) of such Act indicated, as now amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 (information relates to finance and business affairs).

51. ASR03 - REVIEW OF HOUSING RELATED SUPPORT CONTRACTS

In accordance with Minute No. 46 of 2nd December, 2017, the Strategic Director of Adult Care and Housing submitted further information as requested with regard to the Review of Housing Related Support contracts.

The report set out the background to the review, the number of people served by the programme, budget/savings, the future vision for Housing Related Support, consultation and the timetable for implementation of the decision.

Resolved;- (1) That the existing and future provision of Housing Related Support in Rotherham be noted.

(2) That the Board receive further updates on the Housing Related Support Review in 6 months.

(The remainder of the agenda items were then considered in the public session.)

52. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

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Councillor Steele	Non-Pecuniary interest	R&E11
	Personal Interest	R&E4
Councillor Allcock	Personal Interest	R&E20

53. QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC AND THE PRESS

There were no members of the public or press present at the meeting.

54. BUDGET 2017/18 AND MTFs PROGRESS UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 46 of the meeting held on 2nd December, 2017, the Strategic Director of Finance and Customer Services presented an update on progress to identify potential budget savings to deliver the initial estimated financial challenge of £41.861M over the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20 with £13.125M being the estimated financial challenge for 2017/18.

At previous meetings held on 18th November and 2nd December, the Board had considered budget proposals amounting to £7.724M in 2017/17 and £8.475M over the 3 years. Appendix 1 of the report submitted set out further savings proposals amounting to £3.506M and £8.475M over the 3 years.

It was proposed that where it was appropriate to do so and where there was no external consultation required, the savings included in Appendix 1 be implemented during 2016/17 in order to assist with mitigating the current in-year forecast overspend as well as ensuring that the savings could be delivered with full year effect in 2017/18.

The previously considered budget proposals as well as those set out in Appendix 1 had been released for public consultation on the Council's website on 1st December, 2016. The consultation closed on 3rd January, 2017.

Discussion ensued on the proposals with the following issues raised/clarified:-

- Review of the Emergency Planning Shared Service budget
- Support for the engagement of a specialist legal adviser to review the overall Leisure PFI
- Maltby Leisure Centre was to be the pilot for the possible use of LED lighting
- No discussions had taken place as yet with regard to Rothercard
- Savings target achieved by the Civic Theatre
- The additional income through investment in 6 electric boats on the lake at Rother Valley Park had been based on a 6 months period April-September. The estimated projection was derived from examples elsewhere in the country

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- In Rotherham's comparator group the highest average spend per head of population on books was £1.33 with the lowest being 88p – the proposed £1 per head placed Rotherham in the middle
- A review had taken place and a Corporate Property Team was to be established. Regular health checks were undertaken on properties deemed surplus to requirements and once completed a corporate landlord approach would be taken
- Current Asset Management Strategy not fit for purpose
- Useful to have corporate community profile for each Ward including community assets
- Assurance that the reduction in the cleaning schedule would not affect public spaces
- The capitalisation of Highway revenue would not impact upon service delivery
- Concern with regard to the cessation of the provision of consumer advice to vulnerable residents by Trading Standards and the possible re-focus of possibly only providing a re-active service. It was felt that a vulnerable person would not know to ring the CAB for advice. Assurances were given that there would be regular dialogue with the CAB
- Capacity of the CAB to take on the additional work. The concerns expressed would be fed into the forthcoming review of the CAB contract
- The standard of the seasonal bedding displays would be maintained
- Increased fees and charges for Pest Control Services although still lower than private companies would impact upon the most vulnerable

It was noted that R&E5 (Environmental Enforcement including the increased use of Fixed Penalty Notices) was to be considered at Pre-Scrutiny on 23rd December, 2016.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the revenue budget savings proposals, as now detailed in the submitted reports, be accepted and referred for further consideration by the Commissioners and by the Council.

(3) That ASR26 (Increase income on Pest Control) be monitored with regard to the take up of the Service following the increased charges.

(4) That a report be submitted in 6 months on the newly formed Rotherham Construction Partnership Framework (R&E15)

(Councillor Steele declared a non-pecuniary interest in R&E11 (Industrial Communities Alliance)

(Councillor Steele declared a personal interest in R&E4 (CAB) and left the room whilst discussion took place.)

(Councillor Cowles assumed the Chair whilst R&E4 was discussed.)

(Councillor Allcock declared a personal interest in R&E20 (Review of Home to School Transport provision) and left the room whilst discussion took place.)

55. ADULT SERVICES BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2016

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Finance Manager, Adult Social Care and Housing, containing the forecast outturn position for Adult Care and Support to 31st October, 2016, based on actual income and expenditure to the end of October 2016.

The report stated that the forecast was for an overall overspend of £3.740m against a net revenue budget of £67.792m. The principal budget pressures were due to the increase in demand for services mainly in respect of direct payments, domiciliary and residential care across all client groups. These pressures were being partly reduced by forecast underspends within Assessment and Care Management, Day Care Services and Supported Living provision.

Members' discussion highlighted the following salient issues:-

- Direct Payments were awarded in accordance with the Care Act guidance. There had been issues in the past with regard to the interpretation of the guidance. However, the key was to follow the correct processes and ensure that whatever was offered met the requirements of the individual within a reasonable cost base
- There was a need to maximise the offers available from good quality voluntary sector providers in Rotherham and also improve the information and advice as the web offer currently was not particularly good and difficult for people to navigate through the system. This formed part of the development plan for Adult Care and had a specific workstream.
- Adult Social Care was a demand-led service and, as was seen nationally, the Local Authority was seeing an increased demand. There had been a number of high cost packages in the Borough as well as a legacy of some practice which put cost pressures on the budget and could only be addressed by new systems/processes and retrospectively look at each individual care package. All expenditure/committed spend was being reviewed line by line and the move towards a brokerage team meant that there would be people that had the requisite skills to challenge costs.
- As part of the 2017/18 budget setting process discussions were taking place across all Directorates looking at the pressures, how to mitigate the pressures and how to work collaboratively across Directorates.

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There would be a big focus on the transitions work which would benefit both CYPs and ASC. Some of that activity was underway and seeing some immediate benefits around the collection of Continuing Health Care funding from the NHS where there was eligibility. There needed to be cognisance that demands on the budget would ebb and flow and the need for reserve plans.

- Any overspend for the Council would default to come out of reserves. As part of the budget setting process consideration had to be taken as to whether to replenish those reserves. Proposals would be submitted in the New Year.
- Demand pressures increased during the Winter period. There was also pressure around the use of domiciliary care and Direct Payments the latter which formed part of the budget recovery plan.

Resolved:- (1) That the report be received and its contents noted.

(2) That the latest financial forecast against budget for 2016/17 and the actions being taken to mitigate the budget and demographic pressures facing Adult Services, as described in the report now submitted, be noted.

(3) That a report be submitted in January, 2017 on Older People and in February, 2017 on Physical and Sensory Disabilities.

(4) That discussion take place on the presentation of future reports.

56. CHILDREN'S SERVICES BUDGET MONITORING REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31ST OCTOBER 2016

Consideration was given to a report, presented by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People's Services. As part of its performance and control framework, the Council was required to produce regular reports for the Directorate Leadership team and advisors to keep them informed of forecast financial performance on a timely basis such that where necessary, actions can be agreed and implemented to bring spending in line with the approved budget for the financial year. The submitted report contained details of spending against budget by the Children and Young People's Services Directorate covering the first seven months of the 2016/17 financial year.

The October forecast position for the Children and Young People's Directorate was for an overspend of approximately £8.394m.

Members' discussion of this report highlighted the following salient issues:-

- The November financial monitoring report to be considered at the 9th January Cabinet meeting forecast the overspend, after management actions, to be £548,000 which was over and above

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the investment sum. Of the £548,000, £124K were costs related to new activity from the Police and National Crime Agency investigations which hopefully the Authority would receive additional Government funding contributions.

- LAC numbers were greater than the level of the revised set budget. It was very difficult to accurately predict the numbers but the national trend was an upward projector. The menu of services to mitigate this i.e. Adult Adolescent Response Service and Family Group Conferencing would not commence until March/April 2017; once those services were in place there would be activity the stem to flow. There was also need to ensure that the adoption process found families for children, where appropriate, as quickly as possible together with exit strategies/reunification in place every time a child was taken into care.
- CYPS worked with Housing Services and discussed alternative options for ensuring 16-17 year olds had access to good quality accommodation. As part of the national policy, Putting Children First, CYPS had to publish a care leavers offer and were legally obliged to ensure young people were properly accommodated. Currently 98% of Rotherham care leavers were deemed to be suitably accommodated using the Government metric.
- The Early Help Service in place in Rotherham would have an impact at the threshold where a child was identified as in need and that their health or development would be impaired without a Social Worker being involved in supporting them.

The Services that would have an impact on a LAC were Family Group Conferencing, Edge of Care Service and multi-systematic therapy focussing on 11-17 year olds. Early Help would only have an impact over a very long period of time because they would prevent some children deteriorating through the various spectrums of care from Children in Need to Looked After status.

- The Early Help Service delivered a raft of delivery at different levels including attendance at school, ensuring that children were not NEETs, had positive activities such as Youth provision. The way the Service was designed was more likely to have an impact on children who may be subject to Section 17 as opposed to LAC. Early Help should have an impact on the Social Care workload as it would reduce those children who were or could be classed as Children in Need.
- Rotherham had more children in care for 4 years or more than found in other places because of historical practice. Due to the change in practice and consideration of reunification/exit strategies, it was expected to see that trend reversed and children spending shorter periods in care than previously. Depending upon the

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quality of Social Work practice and intervention, families could be kept together rather than children being brought into the care system. However, that required an operating model which Rotherham currently did not have; the Signs of Safety would be rolled out from April 2017

- The Improving Lives Select Commission would be looking at Early Help Services next month.

Resolved:- (1) That the latest financial forecast outturn for 2016/17 and the pressures facing Children and Young People's Services be noted.

(2) That the mitigation and cost avoidance implemented through in-year management actions be noted.

(3) That it be noted that should LAC numbers continue to increase there would be a further pressure on social care budgets and a risk that the reported position would worsen before the end of the financial year.

(4) That the latest Dedicated Schools Grant financial forecast outturn for 2016/17 and Recovery Plan be noted.

(5) That Commissioner Bradwell be invited to a future meeting to discuss the budget situation.

57. ISSUES REFERRED FROM THE AREA ASSEMBLIES

No issues had been referred.

58. YOUTH CABINET/YOUNG PEOPLE'S ISSUES

Janet Spurling, Policy Officer, gave a verbal report on the plans for the Children's Commissioner Takeover Challenge. The Council had supported this for a number of years and OSMB and Scrutiny Officers worked with the Youth Cabinet to undertake a piece of work which often took the form of a spotlight review.

Janet had met with members of the Youth Cabinet on 1st December. Their preferred topic was public transport. The Youth Cabinet had looked at this in the past with OSMB but was in relation to different issues. The young people already done some good work and research and published a report, "Get in Gear: Accessibility of Public Transport for Young People".

The agreed date for the session would be Tuesday, 21st February 3.30-5.30. p.m.

The young people would determine the witnesses they wished to invite.

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Councillor Lelliott would be attending as portfolio holder for Transport.

Following the launch of the young people's report SYPTE had already been in touch with the Youth Cabinet Support Officer regarding setting up better engagement with young people.

Resolved:- That the report be noted.

59. **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Improving Places Select Commission

Councillor Mallinder reported that the Commission had met and discussed:-

Tenancy Agreement

Housing Allocation Policy

Housing Income Review

Policy requested for Families of Deceased RMBC Tenants

Tenants were to have a Housing Options Interview as they joined the Housing Register

Impact Assessment to review the outcomes of the Benefit Cap

Looking at Town Centre

Chair to visit to Lambeth to look at Scrutiny

Dignity had shared refurbishment plans and update on the Services they provided

Task and Finish Group – planned training exercise to see if plans in place for emergency plans were viable

Training from Centre for Public Scrutiny

RIDO performance management

Health Select Commission

Councillor Short reported that the Commission had met and discussed:-

3 sub-groups had met in the last month

6 monthly updates on Foundation Trust and RDaSH – both Trusts awaiting outcomes from recent CQC inspections

Older People's Housing

Adult Social Care performance, final year benchmarking and progress on the local measures for commissioning

Sustainability and Transformation Plan

3 updates on transforming Services for people with Learning Disabilities and Autism

Joint Health and Overview Scrutiny

Councillor Short reported on the meeting that was held on 21st November:-

Update on the consultation

Ambulance Service provided information on staff training, response times and stroke care

Improving Lives Select Commission

Councillor Allcock reported that the Commission had met and discussed:-

Domestic Abuse
Adult Safeguarding

Resolved:- That the reports be noted.

60. CALL-IN ISSUES

No issues had been referred for call-in.

61. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Resolved:- That a further meeting be held on Friday, 23rd December, 2016, at 9.00am